

ASHEVILLE DOWNTOWN COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2007

Office of Economic Development, 29 Haywood Street in Downtown Asheville

Members Present: Peter Alberice, Pat Whalen, Kitty Brown, Guadalupe Chavarria, Pam Myers, John Rogers, Julie Brandt, Dwight Butner, Jan Davis, Jesse Plaster

Members Absent: none

Staff: Sam Powers, Stephanie Monson, Jessica Leavengood

Guests: none

Chairman Alberice opened the meeting at 8:00

ACTION ITEMS

Minutes:

The minutes for the regular February meeting were approved unanimously.

RETREAT PLANNING

Presentation: Video: St. Lawrence Park-

In preparation for their upcoming retreat which will focus on feasibility and strategic planning for a downtown master plan, the Commission members and staff watched a video developed by citizens in order to promote the idea of using land, including the area where St. Justin's used to stand on Haywood Street, to create a park adjacent to the Basilica and the Civic Center. The Commission members discussed their reactions to the video, and discussed it in context of what type of planning they would like to see happen to support Downtown's continuing vitality.

Additional retreat discussion –

Individual members of the Commission had questions about the RFQ process for city owned property; requested that copies of the Center City Plan be distributed to each member; asked if the group could participate in a more hands on way in developing a downtown master plan and discussed general ideas for discussion at the upcoming annual retreat. Staff reminded the Commission to try to bring cameras for the downtown tour; agreed to acquire the services of a facilitator for the master plan discussion of the retreat, and agreed to inquire from City Attorney Bob Oast details about the process of having a development project be reviewed by both the Pack Square Design Board and the Downtown Commission.

UPDATE ON DOWNTOWN SOCIAL ISSUES TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Commission members and staff discussed the format for the staff report and Commission member presentation at City Council's upcoming March 13th meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30